

5 I claim:

1. A tethered fire escape for lowering children, pets and/or possessions to the ground,
comprising:

a descent control fixture anchored to a building at a fire escape point:

10 a tether engaged at one end with said descent control fixture;

a hard-shell vessel;

a fire-resistant fabric sling around said vessel and having a flap-covered opening for loading
said vessel and then completely enclosing the payload;

15 a load-carrying harness comprising a strap supporting said sling and vessel, said harness being
attached to another end of said tether for lowering the payload in a manually-controlled descent to the
ground.

2. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, further comprising an intermittent strobe
light attached to said variable tether to signal the attention of emergency personnel.

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3. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, wherein said descent control fixture is a
cleat anchored inside and beneath a window sill or terrace rail.

4. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, wherein said descent control fixture is a

5 rope clutch anchored inside and beneath a window sill or terrace rail.

5. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of spring clamps for attaching said tether to said descent control fixture and harness.

10 6. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, wherein said vessel further comprises a plastic bucket of approximately 30 gallon size.

7. The tethered fire escape according to claim 6, wherein said plastic bucket includes opposing rim-mounted carrying handles.

15 8. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, wherein said fire-resistant sling is sewn from a pattern using a fire-resistant fabric that is compliant with the Minimum Thermal Protective Performance Ratings established by the NFPA.

20 9. The tethered fire escape according to claim 8, wherein said fire-resistant sling includes a bottom panel sewn to a side panel, and a closure for selectively completely covering the vessel.

10. The tethered fire escape according to claim 9, wherein said closure comprises a draw-string.

5 11. The tethered fire escape according to claim 7, wherein said fire-resistant sling is sewn from a pattern to leave apertures therein to allow the handles of said bucket to protrude through.

 12. The tethered fire escape according to claim 1, wherein said harness further comprises a single length of strap inserted through said vessel in a cradle configuration.

10 13. The tethered fire escape according to claim 12, wherein said cradle configuration harness further comprises two orthogonal loops penetrating both the sling and vessel at eight insertion points.

15 14. The tethered fire escape according to claim 13, wherein the ends of the harness converge above said vessel for maximum suspension stability and weight-bearing strength.

 15. The tethered fire escape according to claim 5, wherein said tether is a variable-length tether having a series of evenly-spaced grommets at one end for attachment to a corresponding spring
20 link connector.

 16. The tethered fire escape according to claim 15, wherein said tether is approximately 10' long.

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17. The tethered fire escape according to claim 16, further comprising a supplemental tether for attachment to said 10' tether to extend the total length of the combined tethers.